AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A printing method by thermal transfer using a thermal transfer sheet comprising the steps of:

providing a substrate and the thermal transfer sheet comprising a substrate sheet, a pigment- or dye-containing first colorant and a pearl pigment-containing second colorant in this order side by side provided on a surface of the substrate sheet;

forming, on a surface of the substrate, a first image using the first colorant; and

forming a second image using the second colorant which further comprises a fluorescent agent or a fluorescent brightening agent wherein the thermal transfer method comprises the thermal transfer of the first colorant and/or the second colorant onto an intermediate thermal transfer sheet.

2. (previously presented) A printing method by thermal transfer using a thermal transfer sheet, comprising the steps of:

providing a substrate and a thermal transfer sheet comprising a substrate sheet, a pearl pigment-containing first colorant and a pigment- or dye-containing second colorant in this order side by side provided on a surface of the substrate sheet;

forming, on a surface of the substrate, a first image using the first colorant which further comprises a fluorescent agent or a fluorescent brightening agent; and

forming a second image using the second colorant~~,~~

wherein the thermal transfer method comprises the thermal transfer of the first colorant and/or the second colorant onto an intermediate thermal transfer sheet.

3. (original) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said pearl pigment comprises mica having a surface coated with a metal oxide.

4. (original) The method according to claim 3, wherein said metal oxide is titanium oxide and/or iron oxide.

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) A thermal transfer sheet for use in a printing method by thermal transfer, comprising:

a substrate sheet;

a first colored layer comprising a pigment or a dye as a colorant; and

a second colored layer comprising a pearl pigment as a colorant, and a fluorescent agent or a fluorescent brightening agent;

the first colored layer and the second colored layer in this order side by side being provided on a surface of the substrate sheet.

wherein the thermal transfer method comprises the thermal transfer of the first colorant and/or the second colorant onto an intermediate thermal transfer sheet.

11. (previously presented) The thermal transfer sheet according to claim 10, wherein said pearl pigment is one according to claim 3.

12. (original) The thermal transfer sheet according to claim 10, wherein a release layer or a peel layer is provided between the substrate sheet and the second colored layer.

13. (original) The thermal transfer sheet according to claim 12, wherein said peel layer contains a fluorescent agent.

14. (previously presented) The thermal transfer sheet according to claim 10, which further comprises a release layer provided between the substrate sheet and a protective layer.

15. (original) The thermal transfer sheet according to claim 14, which further comprises a release layer provided between the substrate sheet and the protective layer.

16. (previously presented) The thermal transfer sheet according to claim 14, wherein an adhesive layer is provided on the surface of any one of the first colored layer, the second colored layer, and the protective layer.

17. (original) The thermal transfer sheet according to claim 10, which further comprises a backside layer provided on the backside of the substrate sheet.

18. (previously presented) The thermal transfer sheet according to claim 14 which has a layer construction of the substrate sheet and, provided on the surface of the substrate sheet in the following order, the first colored layer, the second colored layer, and the protective layer, or which has a layer construction of the substrate sheet and, provided on the surface of the substrate sheet in the following order, the second colored layer, the first colored layer, and the protective layer.

19. (original) A method for image formation, comprising the steps of: providing the thermal transfer sheet according to any one of claims 10 to 18; and forming an image on a substrate by thermal transfer using the thermal transfer sheet.

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (original) A method for image formation on a substrate using a thermal transfer sheet and an intermediate thermal transfer sheet, comprising the steps of:

providing a thermal transfer sheet comprising a first colored layer or a second colored layer, and an intermediate transfer sheet comprising a receptive layer;

forming an image on the receptive layer in the intermediate transfer sheet by thermal transfer using the thermal transfer sheet; and

thermally transferring the receptive layer with the image transferred thereon, from its side on which the image has not been formed, onto the substrate to form an image on the substrate,

said thermal transfer sheet being one according to any one of claims 10 to 18, said intermediate transfer sheet being one according to claim 21.

23. (cancelled)